



Fact Sheet

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control • www.scdhec.gov

The South Carolina Prescription Monitoring Program (**PMP**), known as **SCRIPTS** (South Carolina Reporting & Identification Prescription Tracking System) went into effect Feb. 1, 2008 for pharmacies and dispensing prescribers to comply with submitting schedules II-IV controlled substance dispensing activity. **SCRIPTS** is intended to improve the state's ability to identify and stop diversion of prescription drugs in an efficient and cost effective manner that will not impede the appropriate medical utilization of licit controlled substances where there is a valid prescriber-patient or pharmacist-patient relationship. As of Feb. 1, 2009, **SCRIPTS** has over 9.6 million dispensing records in its database.

What is SCRIPTS? It is an on-line service available to prescribers and pharmacists. These licensed healthcare professionals must apply for access to the database by supplying the **PMP** with appropriate credentials prior to receiving any patient information.

Which drugs are included in the tracking system? Controlled Substances Schedules **II, III & IV** (i.e., OxyContin®; Percocet®; Vicodin®; Klonopin®; Xanax®; and Valium®)

What types of data are in the system? The **SCRIPTS** database includes all retail and outpatient hospital pharmacy dispensing of schedules II-IV controlled substances. It also includes any controlled substance dispensing activity of those substances which occurs into the state of South Carolina, i.e., mail-order pharmacies. The database does not include VA outpatient, most long-term care and assisted living; methadone clinic and emergency room/department (less than a 48-hour supply) dispensing.

Where is the data stored? The data is stored and maintained in a highly secure database. Confidentiality is of utmost importance to the **PMP**.

What is the turnaround time for a report? The Web site is available 24/7. In most cases, the patient report is available for viewing within minutes. **PMP** does not warrant any report to be accurate or fully complete. The report is based on the search criteria and data entered by the dispensing practitioner or pharmacy. For more information about any prescription in a **SCRIPTS** report or to verify a prescription, contact must be directed to the practitioner or pharmacy that dispensed it.

Is there a lag-time before the data is available? There may be up to a six week lag-time from the actual dispensing date until the data is available on-line. The **PMP** encourages dispensers to report as often as weekly or bi-monthly. Most retail chain drug stores are voluntarily reporting weekly.

What are the uses for the report? A **SCRIPTS** report provides information for schedules II-IV controlled substance prescriptions a patient has had filled for the specified time period, as well as the prescriber who prescribed them and the dispenser who dispensed them. The report should be used to supplement a patient evaluation, to confirm a patient's drug history, or document compliance with a therapeutic regimen.

What must a practitioner or pharmacist do to gain access? A prescriber or pharmacist must apply for an account and be credentialed by the **PMP** prior to receiving access to the database of patient information. This process usually takes three to five business days. It is the current policy of the **PMP** that prescribers and pharmacists who practice outside of S.C. may only gain access to **SCRIPTS** if they are currently licensed in S.C. and meet all other credentialing criteria. The credentialing process usually takes three to five business days.

What can occur to those who do not report or disclose confidential information? Dispensers who fail to report will be subject to a \$2,000 fine and/or two years imprisonment. Authorized users who knowingly disclose their account user information or breach confidentiality of the information will be subject to a \$10,000 fine and/or 10 years imprisonment.

For more information on the **PMP**, contact **PMP** staff or visit our Web site.

Phone: (803) 896-0688 **Web site:** <http://www.scdhec.gov/scripts>